HUDCO's non-assistance for loan guarantees to States

1084. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that HUDCO assistance is not available to several States, which are unable to stand guarantee for these loans;

(b) if so, the names of those States; and

(c) the steps Government are taking so that, the urban poor in these States do not find themselves at a disadvantage in comparison with other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) HUDCO provides loan assistance to State Governments, Housing Boards, Development Authorities, Improvement Trusts, Co-operative Societies and various other public sector and private sector organisations for implementation of various types of housing schemes in urban and rural areas. HUDCO loans and advances are required to be fully secured (*i.e.* principal, interest and all other moneys payable under the loan agreement are secured for the entire period of the loan). HUDCO accepts any one of the following securities:

1. Mortgage of properties

2. An unconditional and irrevocable bank guarantee or

3. A Government guarantee

For housing and welfare programmes benefiting the urban poor where recoveries are not envisaged, State Government guarantee is generally preferred by HUDCO. Some of the States from where the Government guarantee is not coming to HUDCO are:— Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Kerala. However, in absence of Government guarantee, HUDCO encourages State Governments to provide other forms of securities like mortgage of State Level Agencies' own properties.

Flats and houses at affordable prices for common man

1085. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government propose to take to make houses and flats available to the common man at affordable prices all over the country;

(b) the proposed plans to speed up the construction and developmental activities in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have any plans to encourage private co-operative societies or other agencies to build houses in order to meet the fast growing needs of the people and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Under the 'Basic Services to the Urban Poor' (BSUP), a sub-mission under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) launched on 3.12.2005 and being implemented in select 63 cities, houses at affordable costs for slum dwellers/urban poor/Economically Weaker Section/Low Income Group categories are to be provided through demand driven projects submitted by States/Urban Local Bodies. In all other cities/ towns, an Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) is being implemented.

(c) The existing National Housing and Habitat Policy, 1998 provides that co-operative sector is to be given preference in allotment of land and house sites to encourage group housing by this sector. The Private and Co-operative agencies would undertake an active role in terms of land assembly, construction of houses and development of amenities within the projects.

IAS bureaucrats in Prasar Bharati and Doordarshan

†1086. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that I.A.S. bureaucrats have been appointed to the highest posts in Prasar Bharati and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the reasons for taking this decision;

(c) whether it is a fact that now Government have taken decision to appoint professionals on the subject relating to the post; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the benefits likely to accrue as a result of this decision?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on date Chief Executive Officer (Prasar Bharati), Director General (Doordarshan) and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.